

Summer
1977

Quick Strokes

\$1.25

Volume V, Number 2

Whole Number 14

Quick training to rapid
stroking and clean script
at Oregon State U.

Fifty-six per cent of the old-arrangement pace was the average score of nineteen in-service typing teachers at the Word Processing Workshop at Oregon State University in the summer quarter of 1977, on simulated production typing, after 15 hours of Dvorak-arrangement retraining.

The average score on the pretest, on a traditionally arranged keyboard, was 34 words per minute. The writing was timed for fifteen minutes. The copy was letters, and the script was to be mailable. The average posttraining rate, under the same conditions but on a keyboard with a Simplified arrangement, was 19 wpm.

On "straight matter", the kind of copy that is usually used for determining the racing speed, the posttraining average score was 28, which is 35 per cent of the pretest average of 78. Both averages are on three-minute timing and on papers showing three errors or fewer.

The workshop windup was a contest, billed as "The Quick Strokes Olympiad", on June 24, 1977, at the Office Systems Laboratory, Bexell Hall, on the campus.

The umpire, Brad Lessley, who had led the workshop, announced in advance that the relative standing would be based on gross scores on papers showing three or fewer errors.

Winner	score	errors
Janie Morse	42	3
Cheryl Schurg	33	3
Susan Barfield	32	0

Morse is from Eugene, Oregon, Schurg from Corvallis, and Barfield from Bandon.

The machines that were used for the instruction and for the contest are IBM Selectrics, converted to the ASK variant of the Dvorak Simplified keyboard arrangement by local typewriter ser-

Australian firm invites
keyboard speedmongers
to compete in Sydney

Plans are shaping up for a demonstration of sustained, accurate, rapid keyboard output to be scheduled for a date probably in April, 1978 -- autumn in Australia -- which is expected to draw competitors from the United States as well as from Australia and possibly other countries.

The initiators are a firm called "American Simplified Keyboards," address 3/205 Woodlands Road, Balgowlah, N.S.W., attention Mr. Watson. "Am Sim" has engaged a Mrs. Field, a well-skilled Dvorak-arrangement operator, and her demonstrations have carried conviction to a growing circle of influential Sydney business people.

Mrs. Field and the principals of Am Sim will extend a warm Australian welcome to contestants from all countries and on all arrangements. Our correspondent mentions the prospect of cash prizes and special, reduced fares.

Dvorak-skilled operator
at Hewlett-Packard

Janet Phillips, whose rapid progress at Dvorak typing was mentioned in Quick Strokes 13, is employed at the Hewlett-Packard Office in Corvallis, Oregon, in the personnel office. Her novel arrangement of keyboard characters attracts much attention. A recent score was 79 words a minute, about equal to her best score on the old arrangement, and her error rate is low.

Congratulations, Janet! and keep it up!

vice men. The interposers were rearranged and the vane link was disconnected.

Subcommittee offers a draft proposed Dvorak variant standard keyboard diagram

A draft for a proposed American National standard for Dvorak variant alphanumeric keyboard arrangements is in circulation through the membership of American National Standards Working Group X4DSK.

The working group is a subcommittee of American National Standards Committee X4, numbered in this way not for mystery but because office machines and supplies are the twenty-fourth on the list of industries for which the American National Standards Institute publishes standards.

The working group labors under two self-imposed restraints which they regard as shock absorbers. One is a traditional digit row, and the other is traditional pairing.

Although it is accepted that the classic Dvorak digit row and pairing are easier for training from scratch, it is presumed that the traditional digits and pairing make for easier retraining.

The outcome of retraining is uniformly so impressive that the present focus is entirely on that. It is true that employers say, "We want them pre-trained," but they also want their operators preexperienced when they can get them that way.

Fair hiring for Dvorak-skilled operators at Oregon State University

With only the Dvorak training that she had obtained earlier in the same quarter, Therese Reilly was found qualified for work at the business education office at Oregon State University and went to work in the summer of 1977. She continued to drill, and her scores are reported in the seventies of words per minute.

The director of the Business Education and Administrative Office Management Program is Dr. Patricia Wells, OSU, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

Frank Cremonesi, labor leader, keyboard expert, remembered

As automation coordinator for the International Typographical Union, Frank Cremonesi, whose death in April, 1977, is reported in the Typographical Journal for May, had the duty of a precursor, to make straight the way for innovation in printing plant composing rooms.

He conducted new process seminars in many cities, often with hundreds in attendance, and always with some attendance from management. Among the slides he showed was one of a Friden perforator for paper tape with a variant of the Dvorak Simplified arrangement on the keyboard.

To Cremonesi and the ITU Executive Council, it was clear that the easier, faster, intrinsically more accurate arrangement would facilitate the transition, both for the operators who had to learn a typewriterlike keyboard and for management, who would gain from the improved productivity.

The insight of Frank Cremonesi, a man of genius who was much honored in his lifetime, will be better understood and appreciated in the future.

Augusta Silverman

It is with deep regret that Quick Strokes reports the death, in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 22, 1977, of Augusta Silverman. In only a few months of contact, Miss Silverman had become so well versed in keyboard rationalization that we could, in Quick Strokes 13, recommend her as a consultant for Ohio and adjoining states.

She was an experienced typing teacher and transcriber of voice tapes. She was a member of the Platform Association. On a visit to San Diego, California, she became ill with pneumonia, from which she never fully recovered.

SCM ASK's in stock or coming: elite type 2200, 1200, Classic 12; pica Electra Auto. Belmont Adams, 4 Park Ave., R 1, Scarborough ME 04074.

Wilfred A. Beeching, Century of the Typewriter (St. Martin's, New York) 1974

Mr. Beeching knew very well when he wrote Century of the Typewriter, that the traditional arrangement of characters on the keyboard is not the best nor anywhere near the best for its purpose. See page 240. He also knew which arrangement is outstandingly superior and named it -- Dvorak -- on page 24.

Strange, perhaps, that he did not write an account of the Dvorak revival which by 1974 was well under way. The author's elaborate research and the publisher's handsome typography could, with another perhaps, have been better spent on something more dramatic than a recital of the office equipment industry's blunders, including 277 diagrams of traditional keyboard arrangements, every one of them distressingly wasteful of operator time and machine time.

Century of is available through Marboro books. It is at least a good coffee table ornament, 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches by 11 inches when open.

Current Consumer, Interface Age, and Word Processing World feature Dvorak board

See page 13 of the March, 1977, issue of Current Consumer, under the title "Foxy Fingers". The diagram is ASK, and and response has been gratifying. CC readers, all or nearly all teachers, and from almost every state, have asked for the Quick Strokes catalog sheet listing informational and instructional material and equipment.

Interface Age, April, 1977, contains, pages 91 and 92, under title "Simplified Keyboard", a brief discussion, an ASK diagram, and the address of 3 Readiness Society, T. S. Booz, president, 6755 W. Broward #201, Plantation, FL 33317. Mr. Booz has forwarded 168 enquiries, and the titles, occupations, and interests of the queriers are of great interest here at Quick Strokes. Thanks, Tom, and thanks,

Responses to the Adams survey
By Belmont Adams

Seventeen forms that we sent out elicited six responses, as follows:

1. A printing company uses four ASK machines to prepare OCR (optical character recognition) computer input. These machines are Olivetti, Editor C model.
2. An SK consultant has 8 SKs (six of them DSK, two ASK) and expects to increase this number. They are used for training.
3. A writer has used a modified DSK for many years, and loves it.
4. Three in a family have SKs (two DSK, one ASK). Favorable report.
5. A large insurance office is trying two DSKs. (An IBM Model D and a Selectric.) Results are good, but they think the training should be done by others. (Training time worth perhaps \$400 brought a return on investment worth about \$1,000 a year in increased productivity.)
6. A university professor is interested in the ASK but had not yet started.

Morse code output from a Dvorak-arranged keyboard

By Arnold Madiol, call sign WD8JIV

I have on order a Morse keyboard, to be arranged as a DSK. It puts out International Morse code with perfect timing and spacing.

The output can be set at up to 60 words a minute, and the 64-character storage feature permits me to type ahead of that. Other equipment on order will get me out on any frequency between 160 and 10 meters.

Simplified elements for Selectric typewriters in stock! Call Davis, at Quick Strokes, 916-446-3377.

Interface Age!

Word Processing World devotes six column inches of its "Trends" section, page 6, July-August, 1977, issue, to "Dvorak Method Gains on Standard Keyboard".

Quick Strokes is published by Philip Davis at Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, quarterly. Subscription, \$5.00 per year. Advertising, \$3 per square inch, \$210 a page. U.S. Navy report of 1944, reprint \$6. Sub, navy report, and Davis, "History since 1944," \$6.

"3 Readiness" means readiness for reading, handwriting, arithmetic, spelling, and grammar

The R in the name of the 3 Readiness Society, (see page 3, column 1, last paragraph) is really a double r -- it refers to the readiness of preschool primary pupils to begin on the tool subjects. This is indeed one of the promising applications for Dvorak-arranged keyboards.

It works. Just ask Marlo McCauley, who started Dvorak typing training at age four and a half, could follow copy at a pretty fair clip before she ever learned to read, and by age seven was

typing at about 40 words a minute. Marlo is still only in junior high school and remembers clearly how it went when she did start reading.

"Easy!" she says, and you should see the grin that goes with it.

Quick Strokes awaits with eagerness a report from the Fort Lauderdale Montessori School, which is said to have at least two Dvorak-arranged typewriters for reading readiness training in the preschool.

Tom Booz has not yet, to our knowledge, published a provisional board of directors nor called a founding convention for the 3 Readiness Society. The club is young yet, but its potential is maturing.

If you see a need for a nationwide or an international association to promote Dvorak keying for this or other ends, advice from Quick Strokes is to write to Booz with a set of by-laws and a program of activities as fully worked out as you can manage. Gerald Baker and Waldo T. Boyd please take note.